REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Jackson for the indication of allowable subject matter recited by claims 2 and 3. In response to the Office Action dated October 5, 2004, Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 5, without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the pending rejections to claims 4 and 5 are moot in view of the cancellation thereof. Applicants have amended claim 1 so as to further clarify the claimed subject matter. New claims 6 and 7 are also added. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in Fig. 1 and its corresponding section of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Furthermore, it is noted that the REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY and REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS was filed on May 20, 2003. A copy of the transmittal and the date-stamped postcard is enclosed thereof. Please address all future correspondence to the address and attorney docket number indicated in the transmittal.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

II. The Rejection Of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by USP No. 6,014,088 to Van Santbrink. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites in-part a reader/writer for sending/receiving a signal to/from the outside in a contactless manner through electromagnetic induction coupling comprising a plurality of high voltage withstanding analog switching circuits provided correspondingly to the plurality of resonance circuits between an output of the high voltage withstanding amplifier and the plurality of

resonance circuits, each for electrically connecting/disconnecting the high voltage withstanding amplifier to/from a corresponding one of the plurality of resonance circuits.

In accordance with one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the high voltage withstanding analog switching circuit 13 sets a conductive state between the node S1 and the node D1 in response to the active switch signal SW1, while the high voltage withstanding analog switching circuits 14/15, in response to the inactive switch signals SW2/SW3, set a nonconductive state between the nodes S2/S3 and the nodes D2/D3, respectively (see, e.g., page 18, line 2 to page 19, line 17 of the specification). As a result, the present invention advantageously establishes a communication between the contactless IC tags and the reader/writer by turning ON/OFF the high voltage withstanding analog switching circuits, such that the number of electrical components of the reader/writer is reduced.

Turning to the cited prior art, Van Santbrink discloses, in Fig. 2, that the semiconductor switch 23 is connected between the **input** of the amplifier 21 and one terminal of the resonance circuit. As such, Van Santbrink is silent with regard to providing a semiconductor switch connected between the **output** of the amplifier 21 and the resonance circuit comprising the coil 20 and the capacitor 24. Furthermore, Van Santbrink only discloses a single semiconductor switch, and does not disclose or suggest a **plurality** of semiconductor switches in the manner alleged by the Examiner. Also, Van Santbrink does not appear to even discuss or recognize that the semiconductor switch 23 is a **high voltage withstanding** analog switch.

Thus, at a minimum, Van Santbrink does not disclose or suggest a reader/writer for sending/receiving a signal to/from the outside in a contactless manner through electromagnetic induction coupling comprising a plurality of high voltage withstanding analog switching circuits provided correspondingly to the plurality of resonance circuits between an output of the high

voltage withstanding amplifier and the plurality of resonance circuits, each for electrically connecting/disconnecting the high voltage withstanding amplifier to/from a corresponding one of the plurality of resonance circuits.

Accordingly, as anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each element of the claim in issue be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference, *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp., 713 F.2d 760, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983)*, and at a minimum, Van Santbrink fails to disclose or suggest the foregoing claim elements, it is clear that Yamashita does not anticipate claim 1 or any of the claims dependent thereon.

III. All Dependent Claims Are Allowable Because The Independent Claims From Which They Depend Are Allowable

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co., 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987)*. Accordingly, as independent claim 1 is patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 6 and 7 dependent thereon are also in condition for allowance. Indeed, it does not appear that any of the cited prior art discloses or suggests the claim elements recited by new claims 6 and 7. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 6 and 7 are patentably distinct over the cited prior art.

IV. Conclusion

Accordingly, it is urged that the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

Michael E. Fogarty
Registration No. 36,139

Please recognize our Customer No. 20277 as our correspondence address.

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF/AHC
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
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